

Department of Justice
U.S. Attorney's Office
District of Columbia

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Maryland Woman Sentenced to Prison for Defrauding Medicaid Program Out of Hundreds of Thousands of Dollars

WASHINGTON – Folashade Adufe Horne, 52, of Laurel, Maryland, was sentenced today to 13 months in prison for defrauding the D.C. Medicaid program out of more than \$370,000.

The announcement was made by Acting U.S. Attorney Channing D. Phillips; James A. Dawson, Special Agent in Charge, FBI Washington Field Office, Criminal Division; Maureen R. Dixon, Special Agent in Charge of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General for the region that includes Washington, D.C.; and Daniel W. Lucas, Inspector General for the District of Columbia.

In February, Horne pled guilty to health care fraud in the United States District Court for the District of Columbia. The Honorable Reggie B. Walton, who presided over her plea hearing, imposed the 13-month sentence. Judge Walton also ordered Horne to pay \$373,564 in restitution and a \$267,567 forfeiture money judgment.

At various times between January 2014 and June 2020, Horne was employed by four different home health agencies to serve as a personal care aide for D.C. Medicaid beneficiaries. Horne also was employed full-time by Howard University Hospital during this same period. The home health agencies employed Horne to assist Medicaid beneficiaries in performing activities of daily living, such as getting in and out of bed, bathing, dressing, and eating. Horne was supposed to document the care she provided to the Medicaid beneficiaries on timesheets and then submit the timesheets to the home health agencies, which would in turn bill Medicaid for the services that she rendered.

Horne acknowledged that between January 2014 and June 2020, she caused the D.C. Medicaid Program to issue payments totaling \$373,564 for services that she did not render. As part of her fraud scheme, she submitted false timesheets to different home health agencies purporting that she provided personal care aide services that she did not provide. She claimed she provided such services during times when she actually was working her shift as a full-time employee at Howard. She claimed to work more than twenty hours in a given day on more than 200 occasions, including 28 days when she asserted that she provided 32 hours of PCA services. She also claimed to provide personal care aide services in the District of Columbia on days when she was not even in the United States.

The FBI, the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General, the District of Columbia's Office of the Inspector General's Medicaid Fraud Control Unit, and the U.S. Attorney's Office are committed to investigating and prosecuting individuals who defraud the D.C. Medicaid program. Since October 2019, six former personal care aides have been sentenced in U.S. District Court for defrauding Medicaid. A seventh former personal care aide, Charlotte Etongwe, is scheduled to be sentenced next week. Cases against two other personal care aides remain outstanding.

The government counts on the public for tips and assistance in helping stop health care fraud. If you have information about individuals committing health care fraud, please call the Department of Health and Human Services' Office of Inspector General hotline at (800) HHS-TIPS [(800) 447-8477].

Assistant U.S. Attorney Kondi Kleinman of the Fraud Section prosecuted the case.

Topic(s):

Health Care Fraud

Component(s):

USAO - District of Columbia

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